

Welcome

- Introduce yourself to people you don't know. Ask them for their story about school sustainability; good or bad.
- Share yours.
- Try to talk with at least two others.

Regional Innovation Forum

Sustainable Schools

March 27, 2009

*Rethinking Schools to make them
and their students Agents for
Change*

To get us started:

Louie Pitt

Pi-Ta Pitt

*Confederated Tribes of
Warm Springs*

Activity

Preparation for “Green Jobs” ...

Steve Faulstick

General Manager

Doubletree Hotel, Lloyd Center

Imagine ...

- *Every student learning to create, value, and participate in a sustainable society*
- *A future workforce prepared to meet the needs of businesses in a sustainable world*
- *Oregon schools on the leading edge of environmental stewardship*

The U.S. has a big ecological footprint.

Our society currently needs more than 4 Earths to support our lifestyle over time.

How many of you think this is a VERY important issue for our society to deal with?

Ecological Footprint

Take 1 minute in your group:

*Does our education system today help
to increase or decrease our footprint?*

Education for Sustainable Development

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2005–2014 as
“U.N. Decade of Education for Sustainable Development”

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD):

- Key and vital element in moving toward sustainability.
- It will help people;
 - to pursue sustainable livelihoods.
 - to continue to learn after they leave school.
 - to participate in community life.
 - to live in a sustainable manner.

Note The Difference

- Education about sustainable development is an awareness lesson.
- Education for sustainable development is the use of education as a tool to transform our societies to achieve sustainability.

More than an awareness lesson is needed to move countries toward a more sustainable future.

United Nation's Four Elements of ESD

1. Improving access to quality basic education
2. **Reorienting existing education***
3. Improving public understanding and awareness
4. Providing training

**Most relevant for the U.S. K-12 system*

Reorienting Education

How is ESD different from status quo?

- Includes more principles, skills, perspectives, and values related to sustainability.
- Integrates environment, economy, and society.
- Locally relevant and culturally appropriate.
- Based on local needs, but recognizes that fulfilling local needs often has global consequences.
- Integrates traditional and experiential learning.

How should students get this education?

1. Teacher in the classroom??
2. Involving educators from outside the school??
3. Interactions with the school facility and operations??

ESD Involves All Disciplines

- **Mathematics** helps understand very small numbers (e.g., parts per million), needed to interpret pollution data.
- **Language Arts**, especially media literacy, creates consumers who can analyze corporate advertising messages and see beyond "green wash."
- **History** teaches the concept of global change, while helping students to recognize that change has occurred for centuries.
- **Reading** develops the ability to distinguish between fact and opinion, useful for example with political campaign literature.
- **Social Studies** helps students to understand ethnocentrism, racism, and gender inequity, and to recognize how these are expressed in the surrounding community and worldwide.

Plus...

- The School District itself must be a Model to experience and learn from.
(facility, systems and services)
- Need to manage it all as an integrated system.

District Sustainability Journey

Bob Stewart

Superintendent

Gladstone School District

The Money Story, and More

Dave Cone

Resource Conservation Manager

Evergreen School District

Until recently:

Gresham – Barlow School District

National Energy Star award winner

A Teacher's Lesson

Peg Cornell

Teacher

Crescent Valley High School

Corvallis School District

*President: Corvallis Education
Association*

BREAK

Challenge:

Be back to your seat in 10 minutes!!

Green vs. Sustainable

Looking at example of
Recycling vs. Resource Management

Green

- Detail Focused
(recycling)
- Ecological only
- Tactical
(increase recycling)
- Subjective -Success not defined

Sustainable

- Whole Systems Focus
(resource management)
- Triple Bottom Line -Social Equity, Environment, Economics
- Strategic *(result in no wasted money, resources, negative social impacts)*
- Objective -Success clearly defined
(Zero waste. All resources stay in the system.)

Sustainability

- Must be a guiding principle for ALL activities.
- The school system needs to learn how to
 - Identify and prioritize potential sustainability impacts
 - Establish goals, targets and timeframes for progress
 - Clearly define responsibilities and procedures to get achieve them.
 - And more>> Create a Sustainability Management System

The Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative “SOSI”



Striving to help Oregon’s interested K-12 schools and districts integrate sustainability into their operations, teaching and culture.

SOSI connects all the pieces

Education

Students, School staff

Facility and Operations

Building, Landscaping/Grounds, Indoor Environment

Systems and Services

Food, Transportation, Procurement, Resource Management

Community & Culture

Community Involvement, Multi-Cultural Proficiency

Plus the need to manage it all as an integrated system.

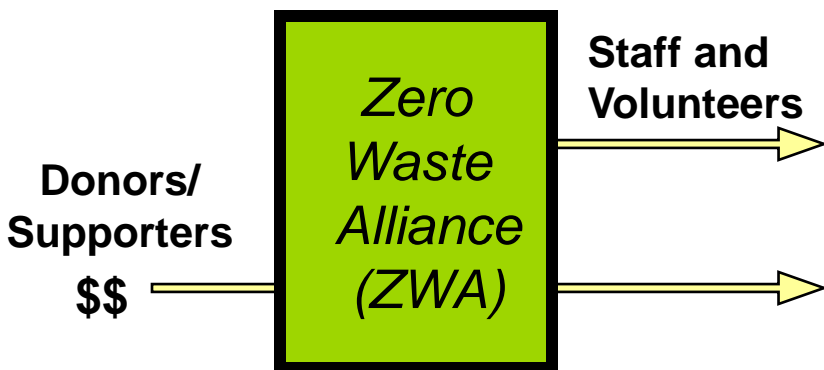


About the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative

Healthy Schools – Healthy Environments

SOSI Mission:

To help Oregon's K-12 schools integrate sustainability principles system-wide and prepare our children to create and succeed in a sustainable future..



Steering Committee



Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI)

Serving: All participants in Oregon's K-12 school system, public and private, and its stakeholders, via:

- Website
- Electronic Newsletter
- Multi-stakeholder Work-teams, creating new resources
- Presentations, training

Some active SOSI projects-

- Working group for Managing Sustainability
 - Evolution of Sustainability, Sustainability Management System
- Finalize topic-specific resources.
- Policies for sustainability with Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA).
- Work with ESDs to establish their role.
- Guide efforts in districts
- And more...

Sustainable
Oregon
Schools
Initiative



Discover

Take Action

Resources

About SOSI

**Welcome to the
new SOSI website!**

Sustainability includes all aspects of school operations, teaching and culture. This site offers resources to help Oregon's K-12 schools and districts on their journey toward sustainability. There are opportunities for all stakeholders to be involved.

Please take a look!



[Subscribe to the SOSI Newsletter](#)

[Donate to SOSI](#)

[Green Pages](#)

Momentum is building

- Some schools and districts surging ahead
 - Strong support from administration
 - Sustainability policies, committees, coordinators and training.
 - Considering sustainability management systems
- Educational service districts are engaging
- Washington State and Vermont have involved state education standards.
- National professional associations summit

Overcoming Challenges

- Consider challenges identified during morning tours and in our discussions.
- In small groups:
 - Identify 2-3 things needed at school, district and state levels to overcome these challenges.
 - List resources and groups that can help.

Making a Sustainable K-12 School System an Oregon Priority

Bill Bradbury

- *Member: Oregon's Global Warming Advisory Commission*
- *Former Secretary of State*
- *Former chair, Oregon Sustainability Board.*

Why is K-12 important for state sustainability goals ?

- Huge infrastructure with impacts
 - Energy use
 - Solid waste volume
 - Bus and car miles, food miles
 - Occupant health, community role
- Educates every future employee and community member.

State Agencies

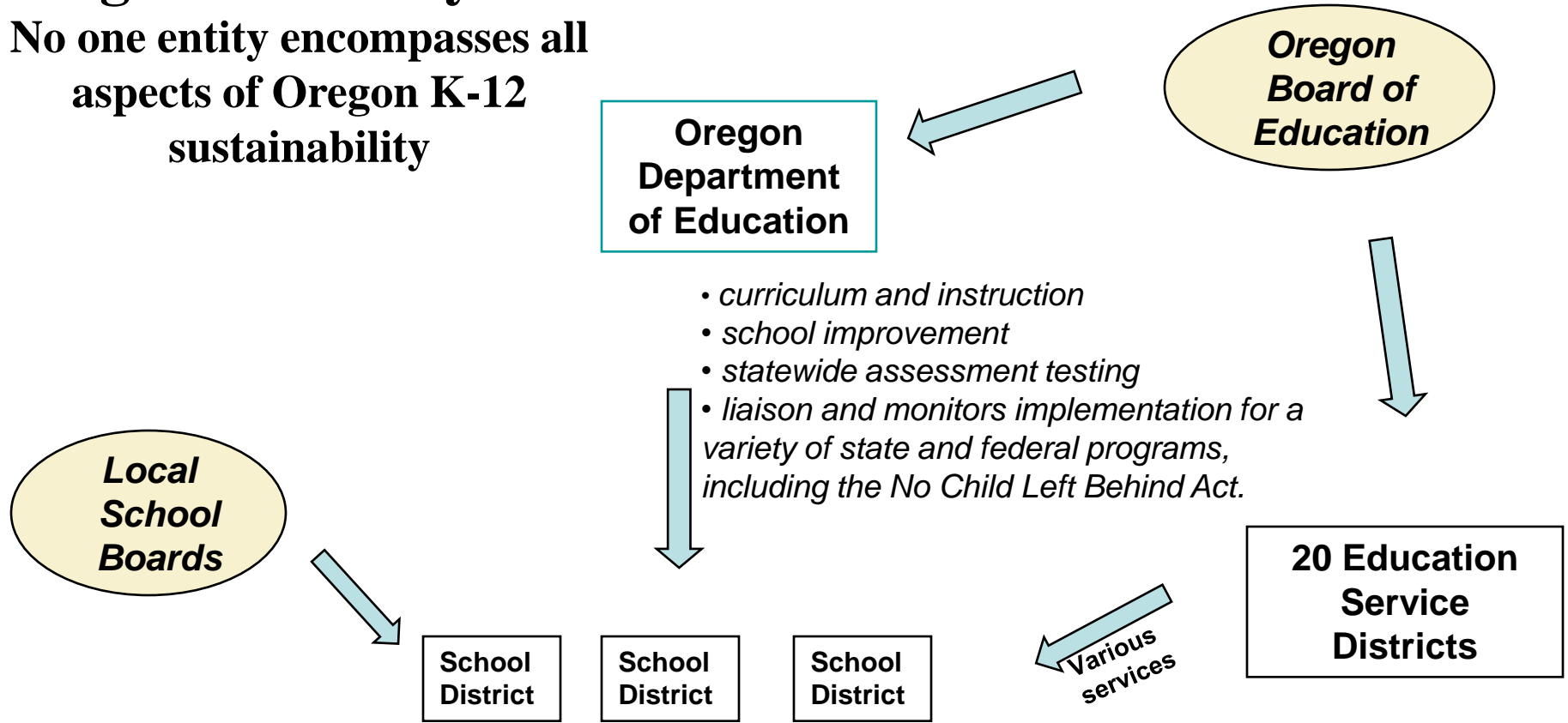
- Many state agencies have been required to draft sustainability plans, including the Oregon University System (OUS).
 - OUS has a sustainability coordinator
 - Oregon Board of Higher Education had a sub-committee on Sustainability
- The Department of Education has not been involved with any of this effort.

Oregon Business Plan only considers Higher Education in it's approach to sustainability



Oregon's K-12 System

No one entity encompasses all aspects of Oregon K-12 sustainability



- *curriculum and instruction*
- *school improvement*
- *statewide assessment testing*
- *liaison and monitors implementation for a variety of state and federal programs, including the No Child Left Behind Act.*

197 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Controlled by each district, and sometimes by schools within districts:

- *Buildings*
- *Transportation*
- *Food*
- *Procurement*
- *Many other systems and services*

Activity: What's needed?

- Visible state-level recognition that K-12 is a key sector for sustainability.
 - What does this mean?
- Recognize that Education for Sustainability addresses education goals.
 - How do we achieve this awareness?
- Open and serious discussion about how to move forward with K-12 sustainability.
 - Involving whom? The only “face” now for addressing comprehensive K-12 sustainability is SOSI.
 - In what timeframe?

To stay engaged:

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Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative

www.sustainableschools.org

Thank you for
adding your voice!